

DEC 28 1961

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00149R000400150004-1

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28 December 1961

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CAPTURED AGENTS EXPOSE CIA METHODS

Havana in English to the Americas 0300 GMT 27 December 1961--E

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(Commentary: "CIA Exposed Again")

(Summary). Suppose a boat pulled up to an isolated spot on Long Island, with seven men and a cargo of various kinds of high-powered explosives. Suppose the seven men and the death-dealing cargo were captured and suppose they confessed to being sent to blow up trains and set off bombs in the Grand Central Station, the Times Square subway station, and other crowded spots in New York. Suppose these men confessed to being trained by the Central Intelligence Agency to handle explosives and do the greatest possible amount of harm and destruction.

Now you have an idea of how Cubans felt as they heard the confessions of two counterrevolutionaries captured with others seeking to invade Cuba from Florida in a boat laden with latest death-dealing explosives. These men went before a nationwide radio-television hookup to confess their complicity in this bloody plot. Pedro Lopez Perez, a soldier in Batista's army, and Ysaías Alejandro Iglesias Pons, former captain in the same army, explained that they were appearing of their own free will and they told their story to a panel of Cuban newspapermen.

They had been recruited to leave Cuba and go to Florida. One left because he had been told that the Cuban Government would take away his children and that he would have to work for no pay. In the midst of this, he admitted, his father received the benefits of Cuba's new agrarian reform law on his tobacco farm. He also admitted that nothing had happened to him after the revolution's victory, despite his having been a Batista soldier fighting Cuban patriots. He had believed the lies about new Cuba. Yet, after his return, he found his wife and children safe, happy, and literate.

Lopez Perez told of hard times in Florida after leaving Cuba, his teaming up with Captain Iglesias, trying to live on 75 dollars a month and having this cut to 58 dollars later. Desperate to go home, he accepted a U.S. agent's offer although a string was attached--a big string of dynamite. Explosives, portable radios, detonators, magnetic mines, and other enumerated articles were on the boat returning him to Cuba. This cargo was to be buried for later use in Pinar del Rio. However, the seven men entrusted with distributing this deadly material and carrying out the sabotage were captured, as a result of the vigilant efficiency of the Cuban people.